



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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News Release

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INDOT Announces Safe Routes to School Funding for Northwest Indiana

Projects include multi-use paths, sidewalks and safety education for children

LAPORTE, Ind. – The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) has awarded more than \$2 million in federal Safe Routes to School (SRTS) funding for projects and activities to help provide Indiana school children with a safer way to walk and bike to school.

Safe Routes to School aims to make bicycling and walking to school safe and routine for Indiana students. The federally funded program recognizes traffic congestion, fuel consumption and air pollution near our schools, coupled with growing health and childhood obesity concerns, makes walking and biking to school an attractive low-cost way of getting to and from school. This is the first year Safe Routes to School funds are available.

This year, three projects in northwest Indiana were selected to receive \$330,000 in reimbursements for Safe Routes to School projects:

- **Logansport Multi-Use Path:** A \$240,000 award will allow the City of Logansport to build a multi-use path connecting Garden Street to Franklin Elementary, fund crosswalk improvements and create special signage to mark the city's "Safe Routes to School".
- **Educational Programming for Lake Central School Corporation:** A \$75,000 award will allow one of Indiana's largest school districts to develop a Safe Routes to School program for more than 6,000 students in kindergarten through eighth grade. The programming will encourage healthy lifestyle changes, including biking and walking to school, through safety training, education and community outreach programs.
- **Safety Improvements and Education at George Earle Elementary:** A \$3,800 award will allow George Earle Elementary School in Lake County to improve pedestrian and bicycle crossings, rehabilitate sidewalks around the school, add bicycle parking and fund celebrations and activities to encourage walking and biking to school.

For more information on the Safe Routes to School Program, visit INDOT's Safe Routes to School Web site at www.in.gov/dot/div/programs/saferoutes or visit the Federal Highway Association's Safe Routes to School Web site at <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/saferoutes/>.

-- 30 --

Media Contact: Megan Kaderavek, INDOT Office of Communication, (317) 232-8558